(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to check banks going the Charminar bank's way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have no information in this regard.

(b) Does not arise in view of above.

(c) With a view to protecting the interests of the depositors, RBI has taken various steps depending upon the intensity of the crisis on a case-to-case basis. Some of these include drawing up a time bound action plan for revival of banks identified as weak, issue of directions restricting lending, accepting deposits, mcurring expenditure etc., recommending supersession of the Board of Directors and appointment of administrator in case of mismanagement, cancellation of lice nee and instituting criminal proceedings against the Board of Directors and othei[r] executives of the bank concerned, etc. In addition, RBI has also taken a series of policy measures to strengthen the regulatory measures like restricting the operations of co-operative banks in call money market, revising the norms of investment in Government and other approved securities, restricting the investment of funds as deposit with other co-operative banks, restricting the issue of bankers' cheques by urban co-operative banks, introduction of a system of Off-sife surveillance on scheduled urban banks, etc.

Joint Committee for investigating trade and business links

5024. SHRI S ANJ AY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any Joint Committee to investigate the trade and business links of some of the companies with the Middle East countries and Singapore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the companies under investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Vacancies of Income Tax Inspectors

5025. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of general category vacancies, both direct and departmental, separately, in the grade of Income Tax Inspector in Delhi, NOIDA, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad as on 1st May, 2002;

(b) since when these vacancies exist, indicating the date of earliest and last vacancy at the above places, place-wise; and

(c) by when and how these vacancies would be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The vacancy position in the grade of Income Tax Inspector in Delhi, NOIDA, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad as on 1.5.2002 is as under:

Ghaziabad and Noida	—	NIL
Faridabad and Gurgaon	—	NIL
Delhi	—	38*

Direct	Promotional
11	27

*Earliest vacancy	:	28.112001
Latest vacancy	:	30.4.2002

Direct Recruit vacancies are filled up by drawing candidates from the Staff Selection Commission. Promotional vacancies are filled up by promotion as per Recruitment Rules.

Privatisation of Employees' Provident Fund

5026. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatize Employees' Provident Fund;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Trustees of EPF is not in favour of privatization; and

(c) if so, the reasons for privatizing EPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.